

UNCLASSIFIED TOP SECRET

December 11, 1958

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Discussion at the 390th Meeting  
of the National Security Council  
Thursday, December 11, 1958

Present at the 390th Meeting of the National Security Council were the President of the United States, presiding; the Vice President of the United States; the Acting Secretary of State; the Acting Secretary of Defense; the Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. Also present were the Secretary of the Treasury and the Director, Bureau of the Budget. Also present and participating in Council action on Item 1 were the Attorney General; the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; the Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers; the Special Assistants to the President for Science and Technology and for Public Works Planning. Also attending were the Acting Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Acting Director, U.S. Information Agency; the Director, International Cooperation Administration; the Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs; Assistant Secretaries of State Gerard C. Smith and Livingston T. Merchant; the Deputy Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, The Assistant to the President; the Deputy Assistant to the President for Congressional Affairs; the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs and for Security Operations Coordination; the White House Staff Secretary; the Assistant White House Staff Secretary; the Naval Aide to the President; the Executive Secretary, NSC; and the Deputy Executive, NSC.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

1. MEASURES TO CARRY OUT THE CONCEPT OF SHELTER  
(NSC 5807; NSC 5807/1; NSC Actions Nos. 1882 and 1948-b; Memos for NSC from Executive Secretary, same subject, dated November 5 and 18, and December 4, 1958)

Mr. Gordon Gray explained briefly the nature of this item and called on Governor Hoegh to summarize the main points in his report. (A copy of Mr. Gray's briefing note is filed in the Minutes of the Meeting).

DECLASSIFIED WITH DELETIONS	
E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4(b)	
Agency Case	NSC F89-300
NLE Case	78-150#2
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the means of providing shelter in modified existing Federal buildings.

Secretary Anderson expressed the opinion that it might be wise to select and concentrate on one example of shelter in an existing Federal building. We would thus be doing something by way of setting an example for the people of the U.S. and would also in the course of so doing learn what is the best kind of shelter to build. Governor Hoegh replied to Secretary Anderson that the OCDM believed that we already knew pretty well what was needed in the way of building fall-out shelters.

The President concluded the discussion by stating that we should wait a day or two and then make our decision.

The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed the report on the subject by the Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization, contained in the enclosures to the reference memoranda of November 5 and 18; in the light of the views of the Joint Chiefs of Staff thereon, transmitted by the reference memorandum of December 4, 1958, and the views of the Director, Bureau of the Budget as presented orally at the meeting.
- b. Noted the President's statement deferring action for a short period on the recommendations presented in a above, pending further consideration of these recommendations by the President and the other officials most directly concerned.

## 2. SIGNIFICANT WORLD DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING U.S. SECURITY

The Director of Central Intelligence explained to the members of the Council that Mr. Gordon Gray had complained of the gloomy tone of most of his intelligence briefings to the National Security Council and indeed had gone on to offer a dollar for every cheerful item which he, Mr. Dulles, presented. After the laughter had subsided, Mr. Dulles explained that the gloomy character of many of his items derived from the fact that it was his duty, of course, to present only those situations which required the attention of the President and members of the Council. Even so, he had today

With regard to the situation in Berlin, Mr. Dulles indicated that there was a good deal in the way of second thoughts by the Western Germans and by Adenauer himself. They are taking a more moderate view on how to react to what had transpired respecting Berlin. They now take the view that the Germans have got to look at the situation seriously and that a mere repudiation of Khrushchev's terms would not be enough. They are also afraid, continued Mr. Dulles, that the German issue will become involved with German domestic politics.

As a result of the Berlin election, the Social Democratic Party now had an absolute majority in the Berlin City Assembly.

The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed an oral briefing by the Director of Central Intelligence on the subject, with specific reference to the exemplary conduct of U.S. forces deployed in Lebanon last summer and autumn, the results of the recent election in Venezuela and the implications thereof, and recent developments in the Middle East and in Berlin.
- b. Noted the President's request that the Department of Defense provide him with a short draft statement reflecting the superior conduct of U.S. forces engaged in the Lebanon operation, which could be transmitted to the several military services by the President in the interest of morale.

c.

NOTE: The action in b above, as approved by the President, subsequently transmitted to the Secretary of Defense for appropriate implementation.

The action in c above, as approved by the President, subsequently transmitted to the Director of Central Intelligence for appropriate implementation.

### 3. DECEMBER 1958 NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING

Mr. Gray said he understood that Secretary Herter was prepared to talk briefly about the forthcoming NATO Ministerial Meeting in

The President then invited a certain number of those present to join him in his office to discuss further the situation in Berlin and U.S. courses of action to meet it. Attached is an account of what transpired at this meeting as recorded by Mr. James S. Lay, Jr., the Executive Secretary of the National Security Council.

The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed the reference Progress Report on the subject by the Operations Coordinating Board.
- b. Noted the President's reiteration of his belief that official broadcasts of the Voice of America radio should primarily be devoted to providing factual news, whereas broadcasts designed to entertain or engage in propaganda or political action should, so far as possible, be the product of indigenous facilities, with U.S. support as appropriate, and of non-U.S.-Government-sponsored activities. The President expressed his gratification that important progress has been made toward achieving this aim.

NOTE: The action in b above, as approved by the President, subsequently referred to the Operations Coordinating Board.

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NOTE: Following this NSC Meeting the President met to consider further the Berlin situation with the Vice President, the Acting Secretary of State, the Acting Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Acting Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Director of Central Intelligence, the Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, Assistant Secretary of State Merchant, the Executive Secretary, National Security Council, the White House Staff Secretary, and the Assistant White House Staff Secretary.

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